

"We shall be much surprised, however, if the excise returns do not exhibit a far different result, for information derived from various sources assures us that this branch of the public revenue is steadily advancing, notwithstanding the abolition of the glass and auction duties, which together produced about 21,000,000 per annum. Should our information prove correct, as we have little doubt it will, what gratifying evidence it will afford of the improving condition of the country, of the increased employment, prosperity, and consumption of the people. For, on this point, the consumption of excisable articles has ever been deemed the surest test.

"On all the other items of the public revenue we may safely anticipate a general though not a very extensive improvement."